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St. Louis County and the Mound City Bar Association Create Partnership Focused on Diverse Lawyers and Minority Owned Law Firms

ST. LOUIS COUNTY (January 5, 2021) St. Louis County Counselor Beth Orwick, Chief Diversity Officer Veta T. Jeffery and leaders of the Mound City Bar Association announced today that they are collaborating to increase diversity representation in St. Louis County.

Through this partnership, the goals are to increase the diversity of in-house counsel employed by the County; identify diverse law firms to serve as outside counsel to the County; and provide diversity training opportunities.

“St. Louis County currently is represented by the only minority-owned law firm registered with the state, but we want to do even more to diversify the legal profession, create an even more inclusive office for our employees, and ensure the County is represented by lawyers reflective of the people who call St. Louis County home,” said County Counselor Beth Orwick. “We are honored to further develop our working relationship with the Mound City Bar Association to make that happen.”

Steve Harmon, President of MCBA, said he is excited about uniting in an effort to broaden St. Louis County's access to the long-overlooked font of minority talent in the St. Louis community. Jeffery, with St. Louis County, agreed.

“By creating this program, St. Louis County in partnership with the Mound City Bar Association are focusing on a commitment to increasing and securing jobs for minority attorneys,” Jeffery said. “This effort will not only have a positive economic impact on minority households but it serves as a step to ensure we are a county where everyone has an equitable opportunity to do business.”

In the new program, the County Counselor's office and the Mound City Bar Association will collaborate in several ways, including:

- Recruiting diverse attorneys to work as in-house lawyers;
- Identifying minority-owned law firms that could serve as outside counsel;
- Encouraging minority-owned law firms to register as recognized Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (“MBE”);
- Providing training opportunities for minority-owned law firms to learn how to become an MBE; and
- Providing Continuing Legal Education training on diversity and inclusion issues.

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